

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TUESDAY, February 16, 2016**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Beth Manke called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

II. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Eileen Francolino, Mary Udice, Jen Crowley, Beth Manke, Mary Beth Kelliher, James Cultrera, Bill DeBlasio, Don Woods (by phone)

Board Members Absent: Sue Reniewicz, Sarah Jorgensen, Ed Marchion

Staff Present: Superintendent William DeMaio

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF January 19, 2016

Eileen Francolino made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting. Mary Udice seconded the motion. Don Woods opposed the motion. The motion passed with a 7-1 vote.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Bob Serra of 237 Reservoir Road is working with Superintendent DeMaio in planning and organizing the Motorcycle Madness event that will take place at Mill Pond Park on May 19th. He is in attendance tonight to answer any questions the Board Members may have regarding the event.

Eileen Francolino: Is the general admission for people on motorcycles and/or general public?

Bob Serra responded: The \$5.00 admission is for those displaying motorcycles; general public is free.

V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS

From the Superintendent, Bill DeMaio:

From the monthly report, Eileen asked how snow removal has been going this winter.

Superintendent DeMaio said things are going well; he had the chance to ride with Foreman Mark Ripley during the last storm. Plowing crew consists of 13, and two of the crew are loaned to Public Works to plow leaving Parks and Recreation Department with a plowing crew of 11.

Superintendent DeMaio is happy with the hard work of the crew.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

VII. NEW BUSINESS

12th Annual Peter J. Lavery Memorial Motorcycle Run Request to waive fees:

Pamela Lavery sent an email to Superintendent DeMaio requesting the Motorcycle Memorial Run park rental fee, the vendor fee for Extravaganza booth and if necessary the vendor fee for Motorcycle Mania booth be waived in order to help keep costs down for the Peter Lavery Memorial Scholarship Fund. This Scholarship Fund raises money for the purpose of keeping MPO Peter J. Lavery's memory alive and also gives scholarships to the students of Newington

and the surrounding area assist with college expenses. Superintendent DeMaio is fine with waiving the fees because this is for a good cause.

MOTION: A motion was made by Eileen Francolino to waive the fee for Churchill Park for the 12th Annual Peter J. Lavery Memorial Motorcycle Run, and town activity vendor fees requested by Pamela Lavery for the Peter Lavery Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc. on Sunday, September 18, 2016. Jen Crowley seconded the motion; all were in favor with an 8-0 vote.

Beer Sales at Motorcycle Madness, Craft Beer Night and Extravaganza

Superintendent DeMaio has brought this area of new business not to stir controversy over beer sales at town events; he wants this to be at team decision by the Board Members. Superintendent DeMaio mentioned the Craft Beer event was fabulous last year, the Extravaganza has sold beer for the last 35 years, and Motorcycle Madness is a new event catering to adults. Jen Crowley has a family member that owns a craft brewing company, so she will inquire if they want to exhibit at Craft Beer Night.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mary Udice to allow Parks and Recreation to sell beer at the following events: Motorcycle Madness, Craft Beer Night, and Extravaganza. James Cultrera seconded the motion; all were in favor with an 8-0 vote.

VIII. Reports

Motorcycle Madness

Bob Serra has created this event and brought it to Superintendent DeMaio to raise money for the fireworks. The event will be held Thursday May 19th from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at Mill Pond Park. Admission is \$5 with a Motorcycle, \$10 fee to enter a Motorcycle in contest. All proceeds will support the Extravaganza fireworks display. There will be a band, food truck festival, and vendors that cater to the motorcycle riders. The profit sources for the fireworks that come from this event are the \$5 admission fee, \$50 vendor booth fee, 25% of the beer sales. David Johnson of Geico Insurance is donating \$3,000 in cash and Haymond Law has donated \$5,000 toward radio and advertising spots. CT Cruise News is a magazine that has printed the handouts, Haymond Law donated \$600 towards the printing and CT Cruise paid for the rest. The handouts have been distributed at Motorcycle shows and shops. Haymond Law has hockey pucks with advertising on them that the Boy Scouts will be distributing to everyone with a bike to rest their kick stand on.

Eileen Francolino: suggested the Board Members volunteer to work this event.

Fishing Derby – April 23, 2016

Superintendent DeMaio plans on sprucing up the event and making it more exciting with entertainment and prizes. He is in the process of looking for fishing companies that will donate prizes for the kids. The fishing derby will be held at Mill Pond Park.

Summer Concert Series

The schedule is out and the concerts will start Thursday, May 19th. There will be 10 concerts this year. Rain dates are scheduled for August. Data-Mail, Inc. has donated \$6,000 for the bands, printing and mailings.

Team Building Speaker

A counselor from Wheeler Clinic will be visiting the Parks & Recreation Department to speak to the staff about building cohesiveness and positive team work.

Northeast Midway Carnival

Superintendent DeMaio spoke with Northeast Midways Carnival last year after the Extravaganza and asked if they would donate for radio ads on I-Heart radio. Superintendent DeMaio and Karen Gallicchio met with Tony Piskura of NE Midways, he offered to donate \$5,000 for radio spots and \$2,000 for wristbands. Some of the wristbands will be given to DJ's to use as give-a-ways for family 4 packs and some will be used for Facebook contest give-a-ways leading up to the Extravaganza. This year the carnival will start on Wednesday night. Also on Wednesday night will be free yogurt for the kids and helicopter rides (for a fee of approx. \$25- \$30 per person per ride) at the soccer field. All four days of the Extravaganza wristbands can be purchased for \$50 which is a savings of \$25, as the festival goes on the wristband price will drop \$10 per day. NE Midways could possibly be changing ownership in the near future. Superintendent DeMaio is also speaking with another carnival company; they have also offered to match that donation of NE Midways has originally offered. There is no signed contract as of yet with NE Midways.

Brochure

The spring brochure will be coming out next week in the Newington Life magazine. It is bigger and better. The Parks & Recreation Department has sold approximately \$3,200 in advertising spots for the brochure.

Budget and CIP Improvement, Churchill Park

Currently in the budget process, Superintendent DeMaio has spoken to the Finance Director and Town Manager and is trying to work out a budget for the Department. The Chamber of Commerce may take over the tree lighting ceremony. CIP meeting was very positive, Beth and Eileen represented the Commission. Present at the meeting were representatives of residents with disabilities, soccer club, and the volleyball club and all were behind the Churchill Park Project. Superintendent DeMaio mentioned at the meeting that the ADA regulations as of July 26, 2015 no longer grandfathered in any standing structures and everything needs to be ADA accessible by law. Superintendent DeMaio also mentioned that both the Community Center and Churchill Park Projects are very important to him and for the community. The subcommittee is recommending \$250,000 to the Council for getting permits and final designs underway for moving Churchill pond into the wetlands, which is a positive sign. Mrs. Picklesimer asked to borrow the drawing for the new park to show to the Transitional Academy, so she could make a pitch to them looking for their support in this project. Next step would be to get on the Council's agenda. Also in the CIP, \$25,000 of \$100,000 was cut from playground improvements, \$175,000 was cut from sidewalk snow removal machine and lawn mower and moved to next year; \$25,000 was kept in for field turf replenishment program. Mary Beth Kelliher: asked if Churchill pool is in the CIP. Superintendent DeMaio responded: Parks and Recreation will patch pool in the spring and try to open it this year.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mady Kenny of 53 Crestview Drive inquiring about the snow plowing around the ambulance building, just making sure they are getting out okay.

Superintendent DeMaio responded: they get out just fine, it is the next day after a storm when they try to move their personal vehicles which is a problem with snow build up around them from plowing parking lot.

Ms. Kenny also inquiring about the Team Building speaker.

Superintendent DeMaio responded: it was for in house staff personnel only.

Bob Serra of 237 Reservoir Road regarding Motorcycle Madness also wanted to recommend selling wine at the event as well because the group will be diverse. Bob is also a part of the Dream Cruise Dream Ride for the Special Olympics, they will also be promoting Motorcycle Madness and have a booth at the event.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by James Cultrera to adjourn. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm with an 8-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Jay